

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO FORT MASSAC ON IT'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 250th anniversary of one of the most important historic sites in Southern Illinois.

It was in 1757, during the French and Indian War, that French pioneers exploring the lower Ohio and Mississippi River valleys built Fort l'Ascension on a strategic bluff over the Ohio, near the present-day community of Metropolis, Illinois. Two years later, the site was renamed Fort Massiac. After the Revolutionary War, President George Washington ordered the site rebuilt, and in 1794 the fort was reconstructed as Fort Massac. The fort is the namesake for Massac County and for Fort Massac State Park, which has served generations of Illinoisans with the opportunity to see history with their own eyes; to gain a greater understanding of how our region and our nation were built; and to see the difficulties that our pioneers encountered as they settled the area we now call home. This gift is due in large part to the hard work of Friends of the Fort, and the staff of Fort Massac State Park who have preserved this treasure for us. In 1908, Fort Massac became Illinois' first state park.

Each October, Fort Massac is the site of the Fort Massac Encampment, a re-creation of life in Southern Illinois during the late 1700s which draws nearly 80,000 visitors. Several weekends during the year are dedicated to living history, giving visitors the unique opportunity to see life as it was two hundred years ago.

I want to thank Sue Barfield, President of Friends of the Fort, and Terry Johnson, site superintendent of Fort Massac State Park, as well as all the local residents and historians who have put so much dedication into preserving Fort Massac for future generations to enjoy.

## RECOGNIZING SARAH HARRIS, MICHIGAN'S 2007 "POETRY OUT LOUD" STATE CHAMPION

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Sarah Harris for her victory in the 2007 "Poetry Out Loud" Michigan State Championship.

Besting 8 other contestants from around Michigan to take the State title in March, Ms. Harris earned a trip to the National Finals held this week in Washington, DC. For the competition, each student recited three poems, and four judges graded each recitation based on five categories: Physical Presence and Posture; Voice Projection and Articulation; Appropriateness of Dramatization; Level of Difficulty; Evidence of Understanding; and, Overall Per-

formance. The three poems recited by Ms. Harris were: The Cremation of Sam McGee, by Robert Service; Mrs. Krikorian by Sharon Olds; and, The Weary Blues, by Langston Hughes.

The "Poetry Out Loud" program, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, builds on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form. Through this important endeavor, students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. I am proud that the Michigan Humanities Council has been a strong supporter of "Poetry Out Loud," and that Holt High School has been so active in fostering a renewed interest in poetry.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to celebrate Sarah Harris's extraordinary achievement. Her passion, creativity and dedication indeed serve as an example to us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Harris for her State Championship and to wish her the best of luck in the National Finals.

## INTERNATIONAL SOLID WASTE IM- PORTATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I ask that my letter be inserted in the RECORD as part of the consideration of H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007, which passed under suspension of the rules on April 24, 2007. This letter responds to the letter received by the Speaker from Mr. Justin McCarthy, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Congressional Affairs, and the Hon. Jeffrey T. Bergner, Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, regarding H.R. 518.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

*Washington, DC, April 30, 2007.*

Mr. JUSTIN J. MCCARTHY

*Assistant U.S. Trade Representative, for Congressional Affairs Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Washington, DC.*

Hon. JEFFREY T. BERGNER

*Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. MCCARTHY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERGNER: I have obtained a copy of your April 23, 2007, letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressing the Administration's concern with H.R. 518, the International Solid Waste Importation and Management Act of 2007. I sponsored this bipartisan bill with the entire Michigan delegation and a number of other Members of the House of Representatives. It was favorably reported by the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials and the full Committee on Energy and Commerce in late March and passed the House of Representatives on April 23, 2007, by a voice vote without opposition.

Your letter implies and attempts to raise concerns that H.R. 518 would somehow apply

to hazardous waste shipments or in some way would be incompatible with U.S. obligations under the North American Free Trade Agreement and WTO agreements. Neither of these observations is correct.

First, the bill expressly applies only to "foreign municipal solid waste," not hazardous waste (new section 4011 (f)(2)). Further, hazardous waste is explicitly excluded from the term "municipal solid waste" (new section 4011 (f)(3)(B)(i)).

With regard to the issue of whether H.R. 518 is compatible with our international trade obligations, the bill explicitly preserves prior law relating to international trade obligations. New section 4011(a)(3) provides as follows:

"(3) Trade and Treaty Obligations.—Nothing in this section affects, replaces, or amends prior law relating to the need for consistency with international trade obligations.

Thus, Canada retains all of its rights under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements to challenge a State action alleged to be inconsistent. Domestic waste trade measures that allegedly violate NAFTA might be challenged under the NAFTA general dispute settlement chapter.

Even where a measure is alleged to be inconsistent with NAFTA, the Congressional Research Service has noted that there may be general exceptions incorporated from Article XX of the GATT 1994 that allow parties to adopt or enforce measures necessary to protect human, animal, or plant life or health and measures relating to the conservation of exhaustible natural resources if such measures are made effective in conjunction with restriction on domestic production or consumption.

Finally, your letter states that there are other ways to address concerns about imports of foreign waste, noting as an example the U.S.-Canada Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste. I would hope you are aware that H.R. 518 is providing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the requisite statutory authority necessary to enforce that very agreement as it applies to municipal solid waste. EPA has maintained that it cannot fully implement and enforce the U.S.-Canada bilateral agreement without the authority provided by H.R. 518 in new section 4011(c).

I also note that almost four years ago EPA officials testified that the current Administration would submit the necessary implementing legislation for the U.S.-Canadian bilateral agreement "soon." No such legislative proposal has ever been submitted by President Bush.

You should be aware that H.R. 518 directs the EPA Administrator to implement the U.S.-Canadian bilateral agreement within 24 months and, as noted above, provides the necessary authority to enforce its provisions with respect to municipal solid waste. Thus, our bill would give effect to the U.S.-Canada bilateral agreement and ensure that it is implemented. The passage of H.R. 518 is important to the people of Michigan and similarly affected States.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.